

**FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2008**

1) Call to Order

Ethan Birkholz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2) Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

- * FMATS Policy Committee members
- ** FMATS Staff members
- *** FMATS Technical Committee members

NAME	REPRESENTING
*** Ethan Birkholz (Chair)	DOT&PF, Planning Manager, Northern Region
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB Director Community Planning
*** Bill Butler	City of North Pole
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Bruce Carr	ARRC
*** Emily Bratcher	FNSB Planning Commission
*** Glenn Miller	FNSB
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC
*** Mike Schmetzer	(absent) City of Fairbanks
*** Art Dulaune	(absent) Lynden Transport Inc
*** Marc Wohlford	(absent) UAF
*** Michael Meeks	(absent) Fort Wainwright
** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Transportation Planner
** Todd Boyce	FNSB
** Alexa Greene	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Assistant Transportation Planner
* Luke Hopkins	Borough Assembly Representative, FNSB
Dave Bloom	DOT&PF,
Ron King	DOT&PF, Chief, Surface Transportation Programs
Jerry Rafson	DOT&PF
Emma Wilson	Downtown Association of Fairbanks
Phil Schad	
Kathryn Dodge	FNSB
Rodney Rutherford	

3) Public Comment Period

Rodney Rutherford asked to consider a road going through from Plack Road to Repp Road. He stated that it would be a faster emergency vehicle route and alternate road access to Richardson Highway.

Emma Wilson from the Downtown Association commented on the air quality resolution and noted that she had spoken to Sierra Research, which said they didn't think that the air quality would be affected negatively.

4) Approval of the January 9, 2008 Agenda

- **MOTION:** To approve the January 9, 2008 agenda as presented.
(Carr/ Bratcher). None opposed. Approved.

5) Approval of the December 5, 2007 Minutes

- **MOTION:** To approve the December 5, 2007 minutes as amended to change public comment wording to congestion from cognition (Carr/Hernandez). None opposed. Approved.

6) Committee Reports

a) FMATS Policy Hiring Committee Subcommittee

Mike Schmetzer was absent and this report is postponed until the next meeting.

b) FMATS 2030 Let's Get Moving SwTPP Subcommittee

Jeff Roach said that comments were due tomorrow and if anyone had more comments to email them to him. Bruce Carr stated that he also thought the plan was narrowly focused on the Anchorage area, with no mention of rail realignment in the Fairbanks or Wasilla area.

7) Old Business

None

8) New Business

a) Transportation Funding Presentation

Ron King, DOT&PF, Chief, Surface Transportation Programs, spoke about issues surrounding surface transportation funding. The major funding issues that concern transportation in Alaska are the following:

- **Construction Inflation**
As oil prices rise the cost of construction is on the raise also. Alaska construction costs are approximately 2 times the US average.
- **The next STIP Cycle**
The next major amendment will begin in spring 2008 and will take place after the Statewide Transportation Policy Plan is completed. The STIP can't be amended until after the Plan is completed. The STIP is a 4-year document and there are new rules that govern STIP management.
- **The Status of the Highway Trust Fund**
The FFY2009 balance is approximately \$4 billion over programmed and if it were to be balanced each state would reduce their spending by 40% or a total \$16 billion. The reason for the over spending was due to Congress continuing to fund projects at a high rate but postponed the problem until 2009. Ron King stated a long term fix is uncertain.

- **New Federal STIP Rules**

When a project has significant changes to cost, schedule, scope or funding source it triggers an amendment. Amendments take a minimum of 90 days to complete, must go through the public process and must get both FHWA and FTA approval before construction can begin again. This will cause significant project delays, and will increase frustration with the process from both the public and staff members.

With the new federal rules it will create an environment where cost estimation will be more detailed with higher costs, in order to alleviate the potential of delaying projects with future amendments.

- **The Change in Climate and Transportation**

The next big issue for the transportation program is green house gasses (GHG). This could impact transportation by the urban areas becoming less reliant on automobiles and more reliant on transit and rural areas struggling because their only mode of transportation is either aviation or ferries which they contribute more GHG than automobiles. Also funding may be tied to goals to reducing GHG, which will be tough on Alaska as a whole.

b) CMAQ Funding change to PM 2.5 Reductions Project

Jeff Roach explained that FMATS CMAQ allocation increased by \$1,250,000 and that the State of Alaska provided the match of \$90,300 for the project.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the FMATS Policy Committee the approval of funding changes for the CMAQ PM 2.5 Reductions project as follows:

Previous amount, \$650,000

Add remaining CMAQ Low Sulfur Fuels Impact Study funds of \$350,000

Add additional \$1,250,000 FMATS CMAQ Allocation

Add State match amount \$90,300

Total amount, \$2,340,300

(Carr/Hardsety). None opposed. Approved.

c) Downtown Fairbanks Air Quality Resolution

Luke Hopkins presented the resolution and stated that the Downtown Association of Fairbanks and Crandall Arambula are working together to perform a traffic and air quality study. Mr. Hopkins wanted this resolution to show support from FMATS for the study. This is a friendly resolution about the air quality in the downtown area.

- **Motion:** To recommend FMATS Policy Committee approval of the attached resolution supporting the Downtown Association of Fairbanks in their continuing work to have proposed traffic flow changes in the Vision Fairbanks master plan evaluated for air quality conformity.

(Hernandez/Pristash). None opposed. Approved.

Concerns were stated that Sierra Research should address standards for the upcoming report so that it may be used for the multiple federally funded projects in the downtown area. Emma Wilson from the Downtown Association of Fairbanks said that there should be a report in 8 to 10 weeks and that Sierra

Research did not think that there will be any negative affect on air quality downtown.

9) Public Comment Period

Phil Schad, a FNSB Road Service Area Commissioner, wanted to thank FMATS for their efforts on trying to keep the public apprized of what goes on. He understands that some of the public is not aware of how funding comes about and how roads and projects get completed or fixed.

10) Other Issues

Bernardo Hernandez wants more information on what "Complete Streets" are, information on Safe Routes to Schools and also update on the Noble Street project. Jeff Roach informed Mr. Hernandez that Colleen Ackiss will be presenting Safe Routes to Schools at the February FMATS Technical meeting.

11) Informational Items

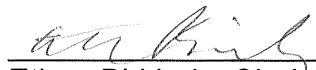
a) GO Bond Information

Ethan Birkholz presented information for the FMATS Technical Committee that the only bond that currently is slated for the Fairbanks area is a traffic improvement project for the Old Steese and Johansen Area for \$15 million. No other FMATS requests received any bond money in the proposed bond package.

12)Adjourn

The next scheduled Technical Committee Meeting is February 6, 2008 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.

Approved:


Ethan Birkholz, Chair
FMATS Technical Committee

Date: 3-13-08